Delhi have been set up. GAIL is taking up city gas distribution projects in other polluted cities also. In Andhra Pradesh, GAIL has set up a Joint Venture Company with HPCL for setting up CNG outlets in Vijayawada and Hyderabad-Secunderabad and other major towns in the State. Further, GAIL, in association with Oil Marketing Companies, is also taking up city gas distribution projects in Agra, Lucknow, Bareilly, Kanpur and Pune. Action has already been initiated for expanding the city gas distribution projects in Thane and Navi Mumbai by MGL and in Gurgaon, Faridabad and Noida by IGL.

(c) Does not arise.

Completion of Paradip Oil Refinery

2189. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that completion of Paradip Refinery Project, the foundation stone of which was laid in May, 2000, has been inordinately delayed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in MoU has now been signed between Indian Oil Corporation and the State Government of Orissa which has ironed out all the difference coming in the way of completion of the refinery; and

(c) if so, whether Indian Oil Corporation would now adhere to the agreed target of completion of the project within five years, i.e., by 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The project has been delayed.

(b) and (c) A Memorandum of Undertaking between Orissa Government and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) was signed on 16.2.2004 for implementation of Paradip Refinery Project by 2009-2010, based on the projections of product surplus/deficit in the country. IOC will endeavor to advance completion of the project if favourable market conditions in the country emerge